

Remarks

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the present application is requested.

As an initial matter, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that 3-5 are allowable.

In order to perfect Applicants' claim of priority, Applicants submit herewith a verified translation of DE 100 00 303.6.

The Examiner has objected to the title because the Examiner believes that the title is not descriptive. Applicants have replaced the title with --DATA EXCHANGE BETWEEN USERS CONNECTED BY A BUS SYSTEM AND HAVING SEPARATE TIME BASES--. Withdrawal of the objection is, therefore, requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,539,443 to Dunstan et al. (the "'443 patent"). It is respectfully submitted that the '443 patent does not anticipate any of claims 1, 2 and 6-8, for at least the following reasons.

It appears that the passages of '443 patent relied upon by the Examiner are entitled to a § 102(e) date of November 17, 2000, rather than the filing date of the parent application, U.S. Patent Appl. Ser. No. 09/132,844 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,532,506). In particular, although the '443 patent claims priority to U.S. Patent Appl. Ser. No. 09/132,844, filed August 12, 1998, upon a cursory inspection, it appears that the specification of the '443 patent is substantially different than the specification of the parent application. Applicants submit herewith, for the Examiner's consideration, a copy of U.S. Patent No. 6,532,506 (and an IDS listing it).

Respectfully, since Applicants' claim of priority has been perfected, Applicants are entitled to a date of January 5, 2000, i.e., which is prior to the November 17, 2000 date of the '443 patent.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn.

Applicants have addressed each of the issues raised by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Passage to issuance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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[Handwritten signature] (n n 7603)

Dated: 25 Sept

By:

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